MAX COMICS

™ AUSTEN  WALKER  COLEBY #6

THE ETERNAL™

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

HGWells

THE ETERNAL







IKAEDEN



KURASSUS



JESKA

PREVIOUSLY...

Two races of immortal beings, the Eternals and the Celestials, have dominion over all life in the galaxy. For the last thousand years, the Celestials have enslaved the Eternals and sent them from world to world to mine each planet of its resources.

The Eternals come to Earth shortly before the dawn of man and transform some of the local pre-human hominids into artificial Eternals, or "deviants," for use as slave labor. A device called the Apple is used to teach the deviant slaves to understand commands. Because the Celestials destroyed all female Eternals, the Eternals on Earth begin using female deviants to satisfy their sexual appetites. However, the Celestials have forbidden on pain of death the procreation of an Eternal and a deviant -- and they have also forbidden that a deviant be taught to speak.

Trouble begins when the leader of the Eternals, Ikaeden, falls in love with his deviant servant, Jeska. When she uses the Apple to gain intelligence and speech, he refuses to destroy her as he should. What's more, she becomes pregnant, an offense that could mean death for all. Kurassus, Ikaeden's sadistic second-in-command, is convinced the Eternal leader is signing their death warrants, but knows he is no physical match for Ikaeden, so he strikes Ikaeden in his most vulnerable spot: his love, Jeska.

Kurassus finds Jeska alone, but instead of killing her, he tricks her into using the Apple, telling her she will gain the knowledge of the gods. Instead of making her more intelligent, however, the Apple devolves her frontal lobe, making her irrational and superstitious -- destroying her mind.

Furious over what was done to his lover, Ikaeden seeks out Kurassus for a final confrontation. At the same time, the followers of the two Eternal leaders engage in a bloody battle that leaves most of them dead. But soon, their differences will cease to matter, as the Celestials themselves arrive on Earth to judge and to punish...

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The gods have come, Ikaeden.
They've come to punish us.
Yes, they have.


It's because we have sinned.
It's because we are naked before them.


Yes, Jeska--


--that's exactly right.




Celestial, let me pass. You have no right to hold me to this body.
The pain is unbearable.
We cannot help you under-stand. Let us go...

"This is pointless!
"There is nothing left to fight for, and yet you all continue on, BLINDLY!"
"You deviants have your intelligence, and your freedom.
"There is no point in staying."
"We Eternals have nothing left to fight for, either for freedom, or for remaining subservient.
"Even now, our gods come to judge us, and I promise you, for all our actions we will be found wanting."



"Go now. Hide your-selves.
"Pray that somewhere there is a place where the all-seeing eyes of the gods cannot find you."
"And you, Ikeaden?
"What will you do?"
"I will remain behind--try to appease them--
"--hopefully divert their wrath."



No, I do not know why a faithful servant like Ikeaden has defied you--
--may I please be allowed to depart this plane?



I have no desire to witness the terrible wrath you Celestials will mete out on the Eternal.


Ikaeden?
Agrimet.
I'm sorry, my old friend. I thought your brain hadn't survived.
I never would have left you like this, had I known.


It's all right.
Only a little painful.
What's happened, Ikaeden?
Where are the others? Why are you alone?


Kurassus betrayed us all.
The rest are all dead or scattered, and the gods have arrived.
Doesn't sound too promising.
Perhaps you should just crush my brain now, before the Celestials find me and degrade me to evolvable biomass.

You give up too easily, my friend.
Who said I was done fighting?
The pyramid is the power generator for all our activities here, among other things.
It also sends signals into space, giving the gods information about our location and activities.
If Ikaeden can defeat the advance gods who have come here *and* destroy the pyramid--he might buy us several generations of time.
It would take a long time for more Celestials to travel to this outer rim of the galaxy.
But in the end, what difference will it make? Why not simply submit to the will of the almighty gods?
Perhaps they will be forgiving.
Perhaps they will understand our transgressions if we fall before them in obeisance and supplication.
Has someone been screwing with your frontal lobe?



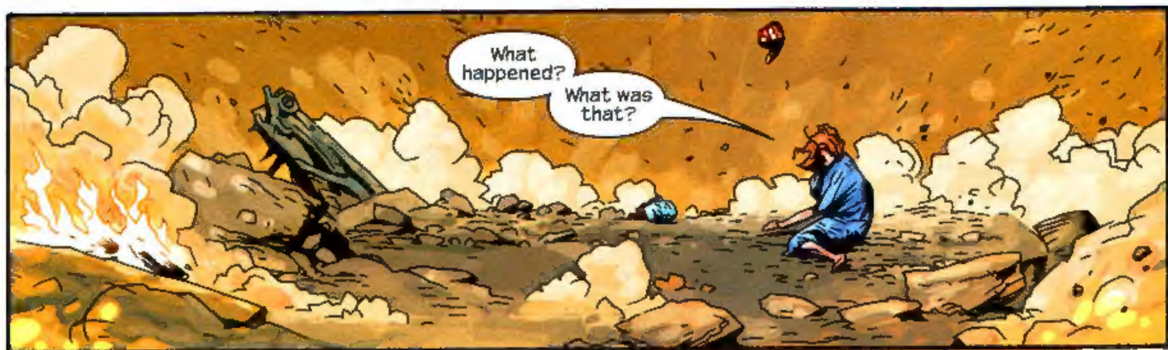
BOOM

SHZZZZ

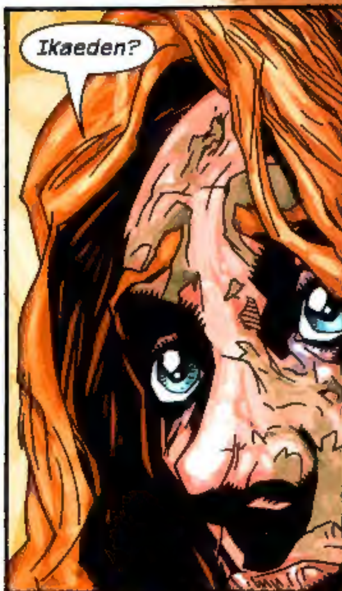
SK BOOOM


CHUH-WHOOOM




What happened?
What was that?

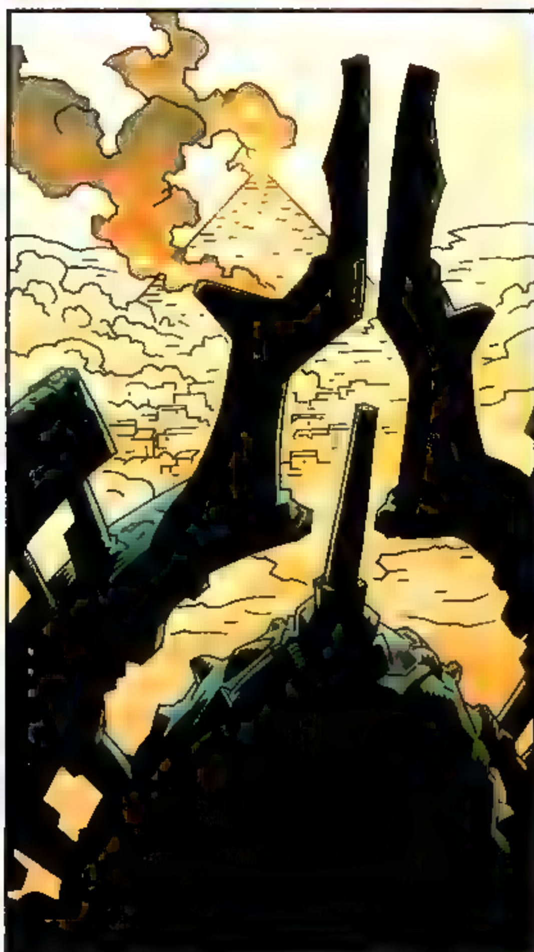

It's done. He's destroyed the pyramid.


Ikaeden?

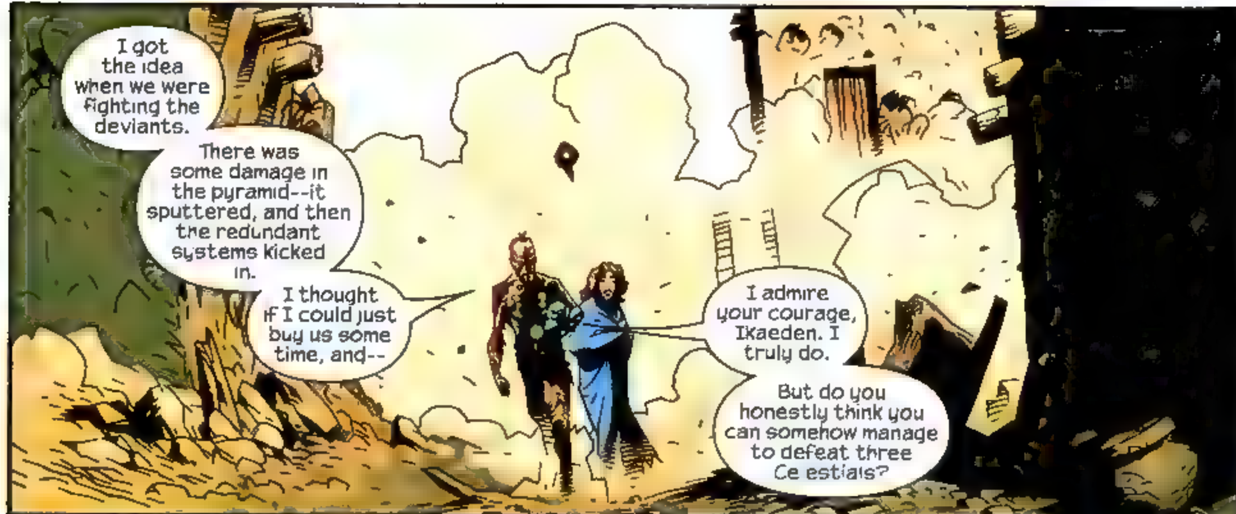
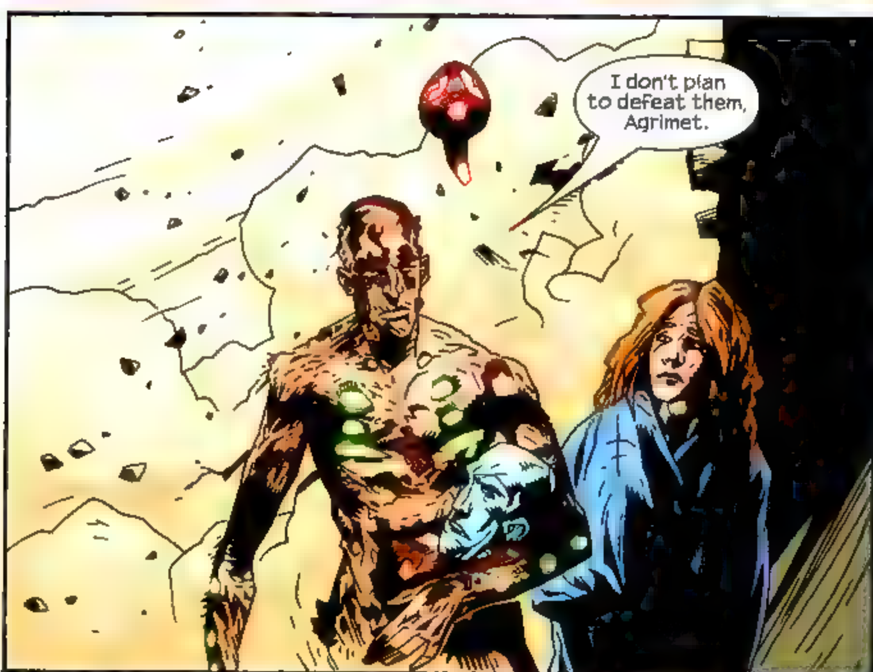



"I am naked. I cannot be naked. It is wrong. It is a sin.
"The gods will look down on us and we will be cast down for our transgressions--"
"Jeska, ssshhh.
"We have to leave everything behind."


...
...




SKUNCH
SPLOP
SPUNCH


I got the idea when we were fighting the deviants.
There was some damage in the pyramid--it sputtered, and then the redundant systems kicked in.
I thought if I could just buy us some time, and--
I admire your courage, Ikaeden. I truly do.
But do you honestly think you can somehow manage to defeat three Celestials?

I don't plan to defeat them, Agrimet.

I'm hoping I don't need to.


Don't look at me like that.
I know what I'm doing.

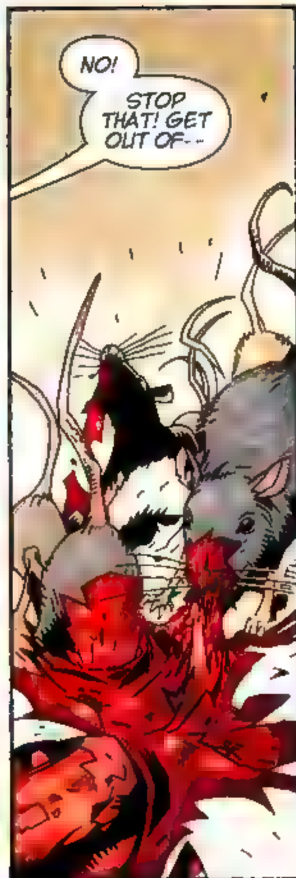

Ikaaaaeden.


Ikaaae--




Get away from me.
Shoo.


Get off of me!
Disgusting little--


NO!
STOP THAT! GET OUT OF--


MISERABLE VERMIN!
I AM NOT DEFENSE-LESS!


FZZZASKK



I intend to take away the Celestia's greatest fear.

At least I hope to.

If you would only speak to the Apple, you would know what I know--

--and you would know that everything you're doing is wrong, defying the gods.

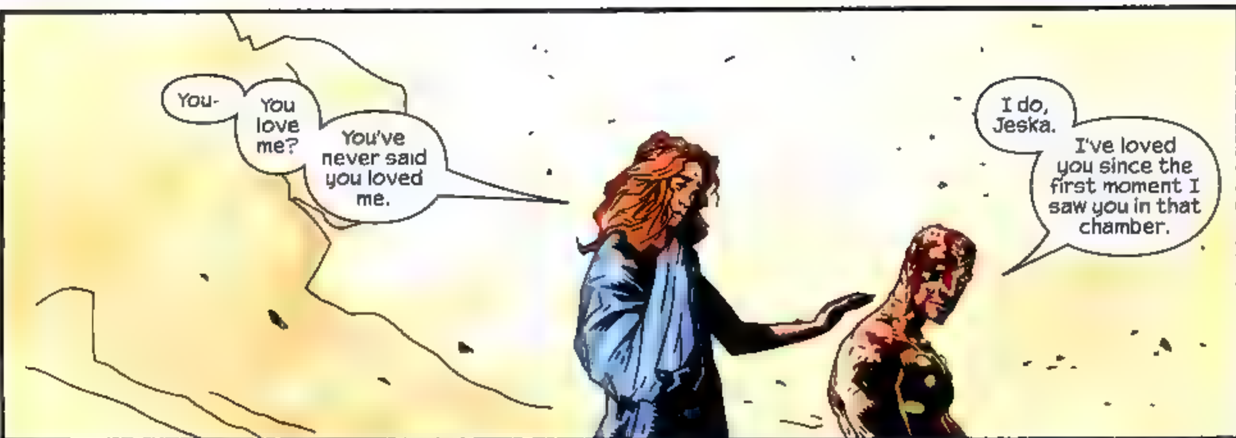
What did you do to her? I really did like her better the way she was before.

As did I.

The problem is--

--I still *love* her.

What?


You-
You love me?
You've never said you loved me.
I do, Jeska.
I've loved you since the first moment I saw you in that chamber.

As I did you, Ikaeden. The instant you pulled me from it.
But you must take in the knowledge of the Apple. It will show you--
It will *prove* to you that we need to hide our nakedness and our pride, and bow before our gods.

I know.
That's a part of my plan.
What? Is that what happened to her? The Apple *regressed* her?

Ikaeden, NO!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
Yes, I can, Agrimet. And I must.

Now be silent--

I must speak with the gods


I have a bargain to strike with you!
After thousands of years of faithful service, I think you owe me a hearing, at least.


I will initiate the Apple to destroy part of my frontal lobe.
It will leave me spiritually detached and superstitious, as you know--
--and all my offspring will share that trait.

You are aware by now that there are other deviants loose on this world.

The obvious solution would be to do with this planet as you did with its neighbor--to destroy it completely.

I would argue another possibility.

It is unlikely that peace can long exist on this world, as various underdeveloped deviants and my off-spring vie for dominance.

We will never reach the point of potentially reaching space to compete with or challenge you.

Instead, our minimally evolved nature means we will war with one another until we eliminate ourselves, without encouragement.

Leave us as we are, to exterminate ourselves in imagined freedom.

We will not survive to do you harm.

Apple.

Replay sequence last played on deviant "Jeska."

Ikaeden nooooo

ZZZSSSSS

AAAAHHH!!







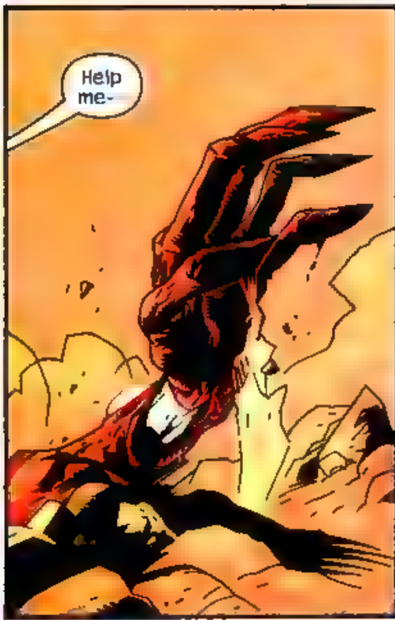
SHBOOM





RRRRRRNNNNNNNNKKSSSH





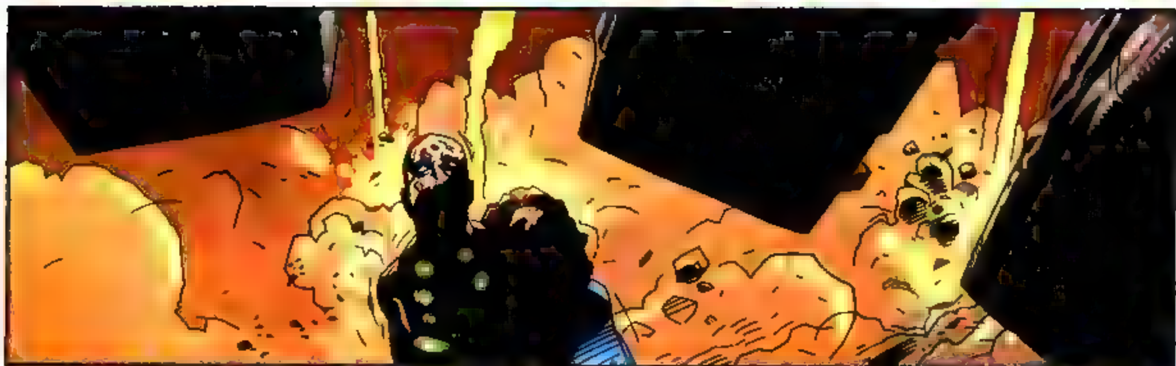




SHBOOM
KWHOOM







FHWEEE-BOOM
FWEEEE-SHBOOM



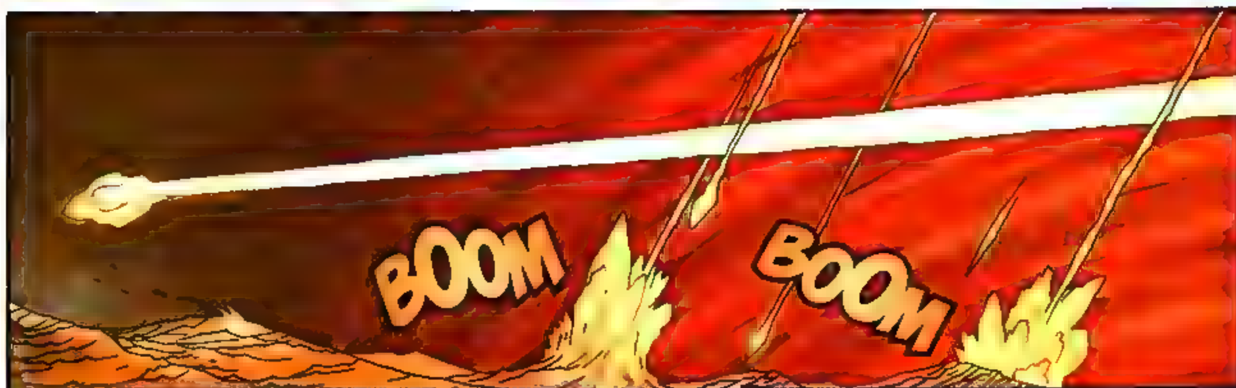
IKAEDEN?


SHBOOM
WHOOM
KWHOOM


NNNNH!


SHCRACK

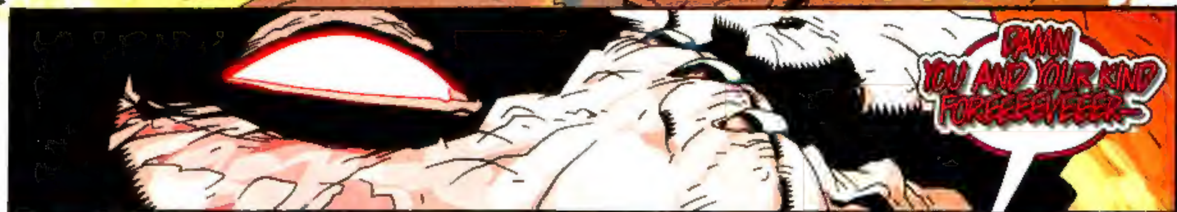

NNAAAAAAAHH!


BOOM
BOOM


Where is he taking us, Ikaeden?
I don't know.


WHAM
KWHAM
SHBOOOM


DAMN YOU,

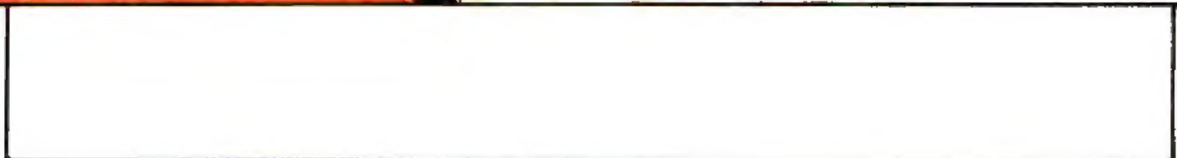

DAMN YOU AND YOUR KIND FOREEEEVEEEER--





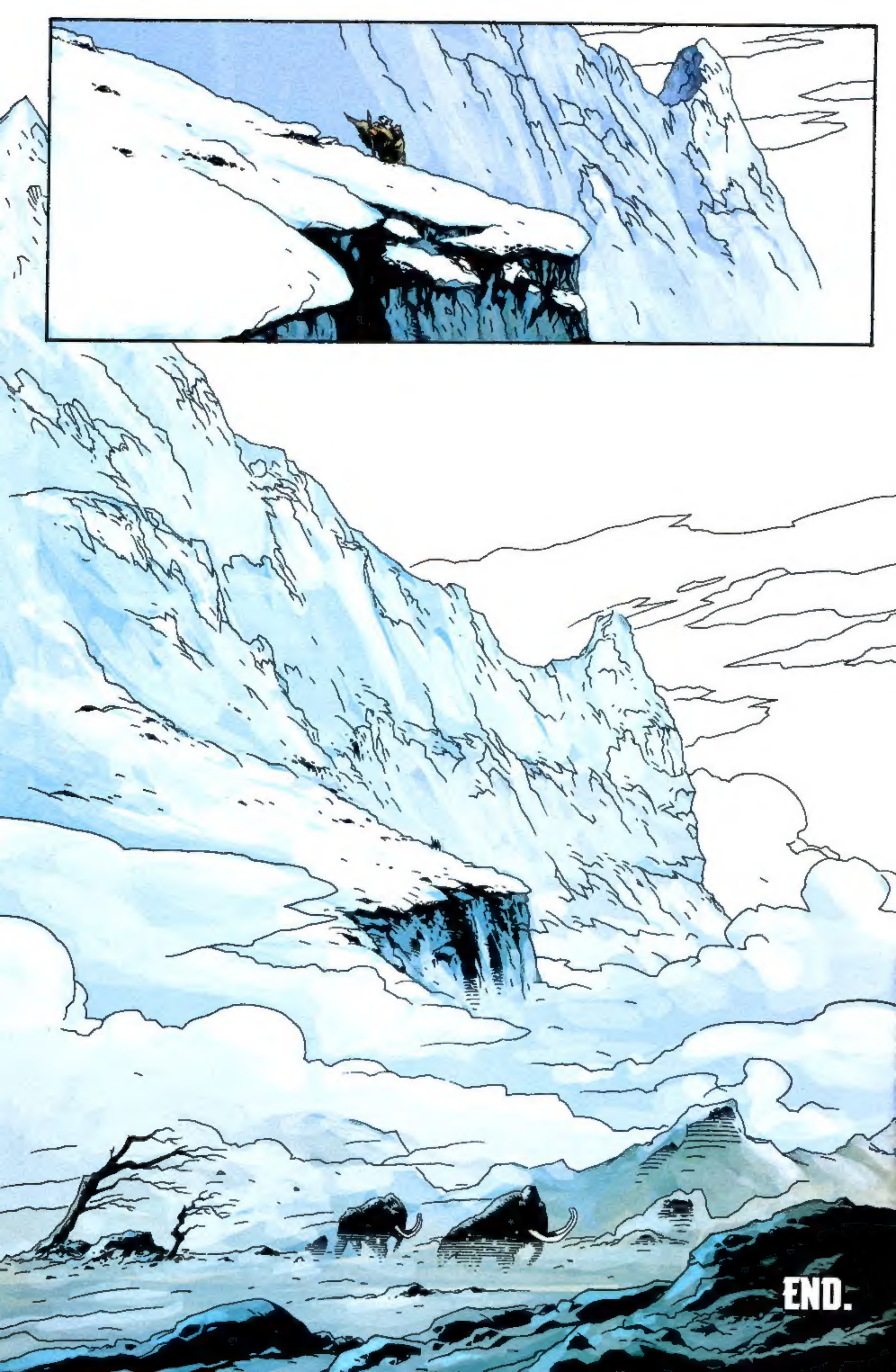











END.



another scan from England's own
HG Wells